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2:44 PM

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REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 4-18-91

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

MR. DELOACH

McDonough

Deputy Attorney General Richard Kleindienst called and they had an inquiry received by the Public Information Office from the New York Times following the Congressman Mike Doyle had said that they then asked if we have ever instituted any other kind of electronic surveillance on a Congressman or Senator. Mr. Kleindienst said his immediate answer was no but then he began to think it might be a charge of surveillance put on Congressman Doyle, and he would not be able to say with respect to other electronic surveillances of past Congressmen's offices. (u)

I said first there have been two or three cases in which individuals have been wired with recording devices and gone in and out of the room and their conversations recorded on a machine on the person. I said we have done that the request of the United States Attorney with the approval of the individual who was wired. Mr. Kleindienst said this was consented. (u)

I said my feeling is that the less we expand on press inquiries, the better off we are. I said in other words I think the fact that we have stated that no phones at the Capitol compound have been tapped or any surveillances conducted of a Congressman is sufficient, because when you begin to answer these, particularly from a paper like the New York Times which is hostile, and all other questions until you get into an expansion and I think the narrower you can keep the situation, the better. I said there was a question this afternoon of our press relations as to whether we were closing any Room 1 at Agencies and if so, how many, et cetera. I said for his information we are closing none; that I had a survey made last week in which every Resident Agency in the country was examined and we have about 500 to determine some could be abolished, such as one- or two-man agencies or some could be combined with larger ones, et cetera. Mr. Kleindienst said that must be a process that goes on all the time, and I said it was but it is more intensive as a matter of the Trade matter. I said we had there a seven-man office and the former Resident Agent did not observe the security regulations that we had in the Foreign and I sent one of my Assistant Directors, in charge of the security, to the

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Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson and Bishop

April 11, 1954

to Media and he found the safe half empty and all the documents that had been stolen had been in the desk drawers and there is a rule that all records should be in a safe at night. Mr. Kleindienst came with me to the office. I agreed and said I suspended the man for 30 days and transferred him to Atlanta and I have had an avalanche of calls from Federal Judges, and Chiefs of Police as to what a fine man he is. I said I had a couple of Congressmen from Pennsylvania called him and he told them he did not know the facts but if discipline was taken, it was warranted. I said that I should have done was to dismiss him with prejudice, but he has been in the service a long time and is a good investigator, but he completely ignored the requirement of locking things up in the safe and the burglars went right into the safe although they went through the desks. I said for that reason I suspended him for 30 days and transferred him to Atlanta. I said I have received calls from Congressmen and Senators and a Federal Judge and in each instance I have answered them and I had the Special Agent in Charge at Philadelphia, who is in charge of Media, go to see the individual to explain the details and I said all have expressed complete satisfaction. Mr. Kleindienst said he thought this was reasonable disciplinary action. I said I thought it was compassionate, and Mr. Kleindienst agreed, adding that his long service was taken into account. I said he did not give a damn for courtesy. Mr. Kleindienst said he would bet the next would not. (u)

I said I had a survey made last week of every Resident Agency to see which could be closed, consolidated, or combined into the headquarters office and we are doing that at the present time, however, we have only re-evaluated them each year, but in view of Media, I thought we should take more direct action now and some are being closed and consolidated with other offices and others will be continued where they are needed and there is enough work to warrant it, but as to the one-man offices, I think in some places they were created for the convenience of the Agent. I said for example, on Staten Island there is a Resident Agency with three men whom we could get rid of across the bridge and all of our cars have radios so we could go to New York City and have a Resident Agency there as the Agents can work out of the cars. I said we would not have the problem of Agents working out of their own quarters and having to rent space in private buildings. I said that as all are being continued, we are installing burglar alarms which are connected with the local police, but by consolidating the offices and reducing the number, you reduce the possibility of this sort of thing happening again. (u)

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Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson and Bishop

April 13, 1964

I said take for example the Congressman [redacted], when a report was taken in the burglary in Media. I said when [redacted] it, I had a man go up and see Congressman [redacted] and [redacted] had been in Paris and the French authorities reported her as being [redacted] belonging to disturbing elements in Paris and then she returned to the country and she belonged to the Students for a Democratic Society, which is a left wing militant group, and we told the Congressman [redacted] it, but now that it is public, he has issued a statement for a [redacted] he is now on a junket that it was wrong to investigate his [redacted] I think it was perfectly warranted. [redacted] I said just like the three clerks [redacted] working for the peace group that is going to have a parade and [redacted] get out of the peace group or get out of the Bureau. I said [redacted] is an umbrella for the Socialist Workers organization. Mr. [redacted] said they don't belong in the FBI, maybe ISW, but not the SWP. I said the Socialist Workers organization is on the Attorney General's list of subversive organizations and they created this other organization to make a name for them. I said these three clerks had to make up their minds either to work for the Bureau or the organization. ~~SECRET~~ U

Mr. Kleindienst asked to get back to the inquiry from the New York Times; that they called the Public Information Office and were given the statement they have been using last week and then they came back and if this meant any kind of electronic surveillance with respect to Congressmen or senators. Mr. Kleindienst said they could just have no further comment, but he was kicking around whether they could get by with that, but the other thing is consensual recording by a device on an individual and there would have been no bug [redacted] to a Congressman's office and leave it at that. The Deputy Attorney General suggested that he put together some limited language on it which we could then discuss and he would call me back. (U)

I said knowing the New York Times, they will try to explore [redacted] and further and mentioned that the fellow who wrote the article in Life, [redacted] in with the New York Times, and Mr. Kleindienst said that was terrible. I said to me what he said about him. I said he had said [redacted] as [redacted] one of the editors. I said there is something [redacted] in Washington and is something I don't understand and I have never [redacted] (U)

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Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson and Mohr

April 11, 1954

it to the Antitrust Division, but that it does have the right to make arrangements whereby the Government could have editorial comment in the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, and the St. Louis Post Dispatch. I said they are not owned by the same individual, but they have the same editorial policy. I said we seem to be getting a situation which puts the Government in the star and the Post and the Los Angeles Times have the right to do the same thing. I said it is just like you could have a monopoly on three papers and have the same editorial comment and policy. I said it is a monopoly of a point of view. I agreed but the Government is not doing it. I said I understand the St. Louis Post Dispatch is continuing to do it. I said in due time you would have two Coxon papers in the country running out the same line. (u)

Mr. Kleindienst said to let him try to write down a sentence and he would call me back. (u)

2:33 PM

Deputy Attorney General Kleindienst called and read the following suggested statement: "The FBI has never placed an electronic listening device of any kind in the home office or on the telephone of any United States Senator or Congressman." Mr. Kleindienst asked if that admitted to consensual recording and I told him it did not. I said the only question is, is it an electronic device as this thing on a person is an electronic device because the man is wired even though he consented. I said I think United States Attorney Sachs asked us to do it on Cowdy. Mr. Kleindienst wondered if that would include electronic device on home or office, as it is not wired and would that mean placing. I said it depends on how you interpret it.

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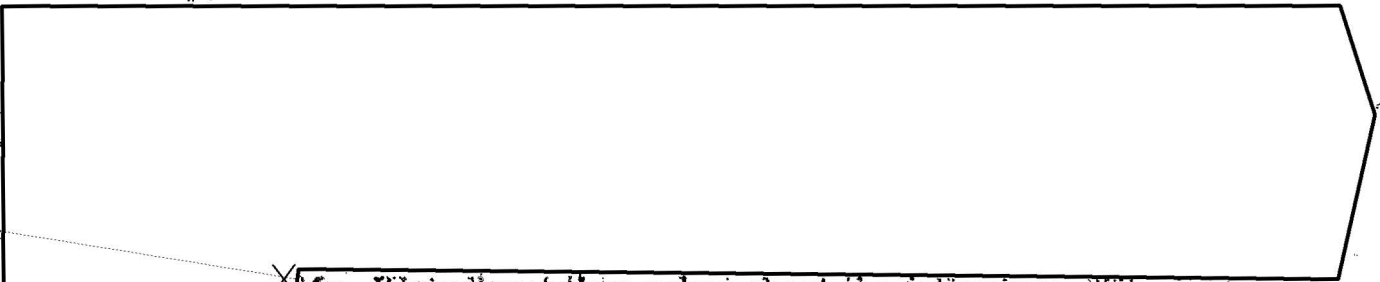
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Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson and ~~Walters~~

April 12, 1951

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(U)  ~~Mr. Klein~~ then asked about the following: "The FBI had never installed an electronic listening device of any kind in the home office or the telephone of any Senator or Congressman." I told him that would be it and beyond that, make no further comment. Mr. Klein then said that was fine. (S) *full*

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

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